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LETTERS OF ELIZA FARMAR TO
HER NEPHEW.

(Letter Book Manuscript Division Historical Society of Pennsylvania.)

My Dear Jack

Yours of the 2^d Oct have the pleasure of receiveing hope you have receiv^d mine of 6th of the same mon wherein I wrote you we had rec^d the you sent by Capt Cook and likewise the garden seeds by Capt Pickles for Which I thank you and wish with you that you could come and eat some of their produce and who knows but you may if my Scheem should Succeed your Unkle wrote you the 27 Dec by Capt Ayres who bro^t the Tea his ship came within four Miles of this City on Sunday y^e 26 where she was stopd not being sufferd to come any farther and was Obliged to return on Monday and the Capt was permitted to sta no longer then Tuesday Morning the Inhabitants sent a Supply of fresh provisions & a Pilot on board and the Ship weighed Anchor in two hours after and on Thursday the Pilot left them out at sea there was one Mr Barclay came Super Cargoe with the Tea and he is gone back with it and I beleive they were glad they came of so well for at Boston they threw it all into the River and it woud have gone near to have shared the same fate her but the Capt had more prudence then to endeavour to force a landing by which means he prevented a great deal of Mischeif & Confusion for they were all determined to oppose it the think now that the India Company will get the Act which imposes a duty of 3^d apd repeald and then send more over if they should and you coud have Intrest enough with sir Geo. to get an

Apointment with it I then should have the happyness of seeing you once again for if they take the duty of we shall gladly take the Tea if not they will have none of it but do as they have done all along that is Run it from the Dutch M^r Carmack was Mentioning to your Unkle there were four or five Merchants to whom itt was consigned now if you could get either of them amongst the Number it woud be worth their acceptance but try for yourself first I have no other news to send but that we have had a very deep snow and the People are diverting themselves with rideing in Sleys and the Market people bring their things to Market on them & now I am speaking of Marketing I must set you a longing your Unkle last Wednesday bou^t a hinde Quarter of Veal 17½^{lb} a Do of Mutton 11^{lb} 2 brace of Partridges 3^{lb} of butter and the whole cost 7^s sterlin this is the place for those who love their Bellýs for here you may feast at an easy expence I rec^d a letter by Capt Ayers from M^r Stephani of the 15th of Sept wherin he says he and friend Pike are well praying best respects to them tell M^r Stephani I take it very kind he thinks of me I assure him I often think of him and wish he was a little younger that he mig^{ht} be able to come and assist me in laying out our Garden as we have room enough for him to exercise Tallent at Gardening where he might walk out and look at the bloom and not see a few peaches set and the in a little time all blighted our Trees were so loaded with fruit last summer that some of them broke down with the weight I am sorry poor Tulip is so Ill pray remember me to M^{rs} White am glad she Continues well am glad her Daughter is so well Married and hope she will make a prudent wife My love to Cousens Holroyds with Compliments to M^{rs} & M^r Boetefeur & all Friends in general &c &c

Yours &c., E. F.

Kensington Sept 19th 1774

My Dear Jack

. . . . The Congress are now Setting here & have been a fortnight but nothing Transpires all is kept a profound Secret there was a report the other day of the Town of Boston being Bombarded by the Men of War lying off the Town and that Several houses wher knocked down and some of the Inhabitants kiled which Ocatitond a general consternatiton along the Continent and in some parts of the Country they Armd and March to the Number of 15000 & more were getting ready but there came an account that it was only a Squash occation by the Setting of the new court of Judacature when none of the Gentlemen that named for Jurors woud stand and obliged the Judges to resigne their places in short the Provinces are determined one and all to stand by each other what the Conquences will be we dont know to be sure they may send Men of War and destroy the Towns on the sea shore but its Impossible to take the Country and the damage they do in destroying the Towns will fall on the English in the end. . . . Mr Farmar Joins me in wishing you Health & Success in all your Undertakings and believe me to be

Dear Jack &c., E. F.

Kensington Nov 1st 1774

My Dear Jack

. . . . I have nothing new to write since my last in Sept only our Congress are broke up and are come to a great Spirited Resolves which you will see for they are sent over by Capt Van Horn togeather with a Petition to his Majestic own hand to be delivered by all the Colonie Agents they are very indifferent wither he receives it or no for it is to be published and they have bound themselves to abide by those resolves and

if Hessitated to repel force with force all Importation ceases after the first of Dec^r next so I am afraid you cannot send the few things your Unkle has wrote for but if there should be an alteration dont doubt of your sending I have nothing farther to add only we are all in good health hope your and your Mother are also pray remember me kindly to all friend in general and believe me to be dear Jack

Your &c., E. F.

P.S.

poor Watkins came over in a very bad time as this Non Importation is agreed on business will be at a Stand & I think he acts prudently in returning as he must have been intirely on expences.

Kensington Feb 17 1775

My Dearest Jackey

. . . . Your Wine is all unsold for there was no demand for it when it came and the Winter coming on he woud not unpack it least the cold weather might hurt it so we have not tasted it your Unkle has bespoke some when he opens it but if he can sell it all as it is he will I believe he will do all in his power to dispose of it to the best advantage but that sort is not so much drank here as Madeira for my part I never drank so little wine since I knew what it was as I have done since I have been here the Ladys drink very little here and I must be in the fashion tho at first it seemed odd but custome is prevailing as for News the Non Importation is Strictly adheard to and after this month No Tea is to be bought sold or drank and there are Committies chosen for every Town to see that the Resolves of the Congress are stricktly observed and those that dont are look^d on as Enimies to America all ships that came in after the first of Dec^r the goods were deliverd to the Commities to be sold by Auction agreeable to

the order of the Congress and all Ships with goods after the 1st of this month are not Sufferd to unload several have been obliged to go to the West Indies I wish we were once quietly settled for they seem to be very firm and are waiting to know what the King and Parliment will do till then things will be partly at a stand. we have now almost had a Wintering at our Country habitation which tho the weather has been very cold yet it has been Pleasant and we have had our healths very well only I have had an Illnated Tooth has plagued me but I have been revenged on it for I have got it out and burnd it I believe yo^l think my letter very long so will conclude with love to your Mother & self with Compliments to all friends in generall Mr Farmar and Sally Joins me in wishing you health & happiness and beleive me to be

E. F.

April 28: 1775

Dear Jackey

. . . . As for News we are alarmed with the wise proceedings of your Parliment & Ministry and we have had several expreses from New York of a scrimmage Near Boston in which Lord Peirey & General Haldiman are killed but suppose you will hear of particulars before this reaches you but the Provinces are all Arming themselves and the men are almost all for inlisting as fast as they^l take them so am afraid we shell have Troublesome times. I heartly wish the Authors of all this Mischief may be brought to Justice I have not time to write more. . . . Your Unkle Sally and Self are all in good health and join in wishing you the same desiring to be kindly remembred to all friends in general

I remain dear Jack your &c.,

E. F.

Kensington June 28th 1775

My Dear Jack

. . . . As for the things your Unkle wrote for we cannot expect now for they are very strict in examining all ships that come in so that nothing can come there is one come from Livepool with salt and Glass which must go back tho Salt is advanced to double the price Capt M^cCoulough arived here about a Fortnight ago in whom came passenger Major Skean who is Governor of Treconderoga & Crown Point and three other officers with him as soon as the ship came to the Wharfe some of the Commitie went on board and his behaving rather to haugtilly they sent to the Congress Who have been sitting above a Month when Some of them went on board and from the Manner of his behaviour took him prisoner and placed a gaurd of eight of our Philadelphia Soldiers over him the other three were sufferd to go on their Parole of Honour and in four or five days they permitted him on his Parole only limmited the distance he should go he was going to his Government but that was taken by the New England-men about a fortnight before he Arivied we have nothing going on now but preparations for war I have been a few days agoe at a Reviev and we had one the day after Major Skean came there is hardly a man that is not Old but is learning the exercise except the Quakers and there is two Companys of them all in a Pretty Uniform of Sky blue turn'd up with white there is Six or Seven different sorts of Uniforms beside a Company of light Horse and one Rangers and another of Indians those are all of Philadelphia besides all the Provinces arming and Training in the same Manner for they are all determined to die or be Free it is not the low Idle Fellows that fight only for pay but Men of great property are Common Soldiers who say they are fighting for themselves and Posterity there is accounts come that they are now fighting at

Boston and that the Army set Charles Town on fire in order to land the Troops under cover of the Smoak we have not got the particulars as the post from Boston is stopd and a great Manny of our Merchants have shut up their Stores and more must soon as all Trade will be stopd the 20th of July the People are getting in Manufactures of different sorts particularly Salt Peter and Gunpowder the Smiths are almost all turnd Gunsmiths and cannot work fast enough God knows how it will end but I fear it will be very bad on both sides and if your drivalish minestry and parliment dont make some concetions and Repeal the Acts England will lose America for as I said before they are determined to be free

E. F.

Dec 4th 1783.

My Dear Nephew,

. . . . You say you are glad we have got through those troublesome times I assure you they were very much so but ours nothing in comparison to many who have been stripd of all and turnd out of doors and their houses burnt before their faces and some thretend to be burnt in them but not withstanding Gouty fingers I give you some account of what we have shared amongst the manny the first of our troubles began a little before the Affair at Trent Town when it was said they were comeing to Philadelphia and that the Soldiers were to have three days plunder which put every body into such terror & confution that happy was they who could get Waggon to carry of their familys and effects and manny left a great deal behind them glad to get of with their persons your Unkle would not leave our house but sent Sally and I up to Potsgrove 37 mil[es] to Mr^a Carmicks who had retired there above a year before it was on the 12th of Dec^r and very cold with exceeding bad roads your Unkle paid 10£ for a Waggon and obliged to stay four days before we could

have it there was so many that Wanted we took our cloaths with Beds and Bedding and as much as we could stow in the Waggon to have room to set in it with an old man on horse back to attend us in this plight we set out and was three days on the road I luckily had some chickens drest which with some bread and a couple of bottles of wine we took with for was afraid as so many People on the road we might find a difficulty on getting accommodations and it was well I did for the second night we had a hard task to get lodging was obliged to beg hard to get room at an Inn to take one of the beds out of the Waggon and lye on the floor in the room where the Mistress of them lay in and was very bad there was she her husband & two Children all in one bed and another in the Cradle so you guess at our Lodging and if we had not brought Victuals with us we must have gone supperless to bed but we were well of to what some were for people were so terrified they neither knew where to go or what to do I'll only mention one Instance the next morning after our lying on the floor we set off as soon as it was light went about four Miles to breakfast there was two Waggon loaded with household goods and a family of ten persons one a young lady and her child six weeks old & tho it snow^d there was no covering to the Waggon and they had no place to go to but got the Waggoner to take them to his house there were many more people distressed some with their carriages broke down a Merchant in Philadelphia his Wife Sister & three Daughters in a Waggon crossing a Creek the tongue of the Waggon came out and they sat in the water till it was mended we got safe to Pottsgrove tho greatly fatigued & half dead with cold Stayed there Six weeks but the Trentown affair gave a short respite to Philadelphia as they did not arrive there till September^[er] and then Mr Farmar would not leave the house so I determined to stay and share the danger with him which our Situation made more disagreeable as

the Americans light horse frequently came done before our house and there the British and they would fire at each other we had all our fences pulled down so the Garden and orchard was quite open and to compleat all our Servant man had listed and we could get no Maid Servant that woud stay in the country so that in the depth of winter we were three months without any body but our three selves I was obliged to get up before day and dress by candle while M^r Farmar as hostler got the Chaize ready to go to Market otherwise we could get no Victuals this was twice a week and was obliged to watch the road to get flower of poor folks who got thro the lines and got flower at the Mills and so made a penny that way tho they frequently had it taken from them by the Americans as endeavourd all they could to stop all provitions from coming to town but when the spring came on we were a little better off for the Ridgment of Queens Rangers were Posted on the River side opposite our house and the officers were daily comeing to us which in some measure prevented our being so much plundered as some of our neighbors was some of them left their houses which were all pulled down as would have been the case with ours if we had left it but now thanks all those troubles are over and we hope now to injoy the blessings of Peace here are a great Manny Strangers come to Settle here & almost all the houses are shops and stores all very full of goods & I believe a great deal sold for less then the first cost which I think is poor encouragement for more adventuerers yet they are constanly comeing in from all parts and now I beleive I may think yo^l be tired with my long Epistle so must draw towards a conclution M^r Farmar and Sally Join me in love to you and your Mother and beleive me to by my

Dear Jackey

Yours &c,

E. F.